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MANUEL ANTONIO VARONA; INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

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VARONA, TONY
MOSS, EDWARD K.
ORGANIZED CRIME
CUBA
CELLINI BROTHERS
LANSKY, MEYER
TRAFFICANTE, SANTO
ERICKSON, FRANK

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SECRET

The Attorney General

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January 23, 1961

Director, FBI

No DoD objection to public disclosure
pursuant to P.L. 102-526, except for 1 - [redacted]
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1 - [redacted]

MANUEL ANTONIO VARONA
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

1-41-93
Classified by 9803 RDD/KSR
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

One of the major anti-Castro organizations in the United States is the Frente Revolucionario Democrático. Manuel Antonio Varona, more familiarly known as Tony Varona, is one of the leaders of this organization in Miami, Florida.

We have received information to the effect that gambling elements in the United States have offered to contribute as high as two million dollars to finance the anti-Castro operations of Varona and the organization which he represents, apparently in the hope of getting in on the ground floor in case should Castro be overthrown. (S) (u)

Edward E. Moss of Washington, D. C., reportedly is handling public relations matters for Varona and assisting him in raising funds. According to the information received one Julia Cellini is a mistress of Moss and operates a secretarial service here as a front for the activities of Moss. Her source reported that the father of Julia Cellini was a big numbers racketeer until a few years ago and two of her brothers allegedly were fronts for two of the largest gambling casinos in Havana during the Batista regime. The Cellini brothers are alleged to be in contact with Varona through Moss and it was through this channel that the offer of financial assistance was made. (S) (u)

Prior data available to us shows that three Cellini Brothers were connected with gambling activities in Havana, Cuba, during the Batista regime. Goffredo R. Cellini and Edward G. Cellini were connected with the Casino Internacional, a gambling casino, as Afternoon Manager and Evening Manager, respectively. Dino Cellini was a floor man for the gambling casino at the Tropicana night club and was an overseer in the gambling casino at the Hotel Havana Riviera. Goffredo Cellini is known to have been associated with such hoodlums as Jack Lansky

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The Attorney General

and Meyer Lansky, had contact with Santo Trafficante and personally knew Americans holding large gambling interests in Havana including Frank Erickson. Dino Cellini some years ago was associated in a gambling operation with Joseph Francis Nesline, a hoodlum in Washington, D. C.

The backgrounds of the Cellini brothers indicate they would probably be fronting for gambling interests in offering to contribute financially, as alleged, to anti-Castro operations. (S)

- 1 - Acting Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
- 1 - Acting Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

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